

## **REMARKS**

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment before continued examination of the instant application, but after entry of the After Final Amendment filed on March 24, 2010, is respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 10-12, 14, and 17-19 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

At the outset, a paragraph on page 10 of the specification has been revised herein to correct a previous inadvertent error. It is submitted that this correction is fully supported by the application as filed, and no new matter has been added.

In the Advisory Action dated April 8, 2010, the Examiner stated the following: "The Examiner suggests adding language to the claim which defines precisely what the line of extension is relative to physical structure." Independent claims 10 and 19 have been revised herein to recite that the line of extension is defined by a direction vector that extends away from the respective one of the plurality of tubes, parallel to a central axis of an end segment of the respective one of the plurality of tubes. Support for this recitation may be found throughout the application as filed, e.g., at page 13, lines 2-5 and Fig. 10, and page 10, lines 15-22 and Figs. 3a, 3b, 3c, and 3d.

If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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JCD/JBD/slC